(b) the total annual production of cloth at present; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production of cloth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Per capita consumption of cloth for the year 1987-88 (latest year for which figures are available) is 16.35 linear metres.

(b) The production of cloth during 1990-91 is estimated at 20354 million sq. metres.

(c) The production of cloth and yarn has been steadily increasing over the years. Government policy of liberalisation and modernisation of industry is expected to give further fillip to the production of cloth in future.

LOANS FOR AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

*280. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to permit the Urban banks to advance loans for agriculture and agro-based industries in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which permission is likely to be accorded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By definition, such banks operate only in urban and semi-urban pockets in their respective areas of operation.

[English]

DEFENCE AIRCRAFT CRASHES

*281. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defence aircraft crashes during January—March, 1991.

(b) the number of persons killed or injured; and

(c) how these figures compare with those of the corresponding period of 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) During Jan.—March 1991, there were 8 Defence aircraft crashes in which 34 persons were killed and none injured. In the corresponding period in 1990, there were 6 crashes which resulted in the death of 17 persons and injuries to 16.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE AT VISAKHAPATNAM

*282. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY : SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an Export Processing Zone at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the steps taken in respect of land, building, water, electricity etc. and infrastructural facilities proposed to be made available to the entrepreneurs; and

(c) the date from which these facilities will be made available ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken for development of the Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone :—

(i) The Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone Administration has taken the possession of 360.51 acres of land.

(ii) The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation has been appointed as the nodal agency for development of necessary infrastructure. It has already finalized pre-qualification tenders and final tender is under preparation.